



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

It has been nearly six weeks since I started sitting behind the desk that once belonged to Pastor Greg. I will admit that I am a bit overwhelmed. But, what has struck me most in my experience thus far is the depth of commitment that so many of you have for the work of our church.

This is “overwhelming” in the best sense of the word. You have shown great enthusiasm in completing even the most menial tasks, whether this be cleaning out a neglected room in the Peace Center or packing lunches on a Sunday morning. In all of this, I have come to a new appreciation for the words we sing every Sunday: “the church is a people.”

This experience has also led me to reflect on a sometimes overlooked theological idea: the communion of saints.

Over the last few weeks, I have ventured into the bowels of our sanctuary, to the dusty archives, and to other unknown nooks and crannies. In these places it is hard not to hear voices. Looking at the foundation stones on which our building rests, for example, I can imagine the people who laid them, who looked forward in hope to a day when their children, and their children’s children, would reap the spiritual fruits of their labor. These are the saints with whom we commune, and we are the ones who – with the help of the Holy Spirit – will carry their vision forward.

“I believe in the communion of saints.” When we say this, we are not referring to Francis or Benedict or any of the great names of history. Rather, we are acknowledging the often nameless ones whose patient faith has brought us to this very moment. They accompany us even now.

So, when you get a chance, and you are walking through the halls of our storied church, remember to whisper a prayer of gratitude—for the saints whose names are remembered, and for the countless others whose names are not.

Dan Deffenbaugh

August Ushers and Greeters

August Ushers (Team #6) Chanda Essink, Lynne Friedewald, Chuck Shoemaker

August Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
9	Melissa Davis	May Wierenga
16	Mary Kay LaMaster	Melissa Davis
23	Daveta & Dick Brader	Melissa Davis
30	Sue Medsker	Mary Kay LaMaster



9:45am-11:30am

Third Saturday of each month

at the PEACE Center

United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is a joint ministry with First Presbyterian Church & First United Methodist Church. We provide a food distribution to 400+ families.

- If you need food, please feel free to come. The distribution is on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- If you would like to volunteer for this distribution, please come to the church at 9:30am to help us with the distribution.

August 2, 2026 – August 17, 2026

Tues. 8/4	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
Wed. 8/5	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
Thur. 8/6	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Fri. 8/7	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sat. 8/8	8am-4pm	Community Book Sale	PEACE W Classrooms
Sun. 8/9	9am	Worship in the Park	Alexander Park
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	5pm-7pm	Elementary Movie Club	Youth Room
Mon. 8/10	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tues. 8/11	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	1:00 pm	Jim Duval Memorial Service with reception to follow	Sanctuary-Memorial Service Reception-Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Meeting	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustees Meet	PEACE W. Classroom
	6:45pm	Deacons Meet	Anderson Room
Wed. 8/12	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
Thur. 8/13	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
Fri. 8/14	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sat. 8/15	9:45am-11:30am	United Harvest	
Sun. 8/16	9-10am	Worship in the Park	Alexander Park
	9:15am	Teacher Training Event	Fellowship Hall
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctury, YouTube, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
Mon. 8/17	12pm	Memorial Committee	Anderson Room
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room

August Communion Offering

Raíces de mi Pueblo Mexican Dance Troupe

Raíces de mi Pueblo (Stories of our town) is a folkloric dance group that meets for practices twice a week in our Peace Center. It is also our monthly communion offering for the month of June. Maria started this dance class five years ago in response to her concerns about her own children and other children in her neighborhood becoming disconnected from their roots and not participating in safe, fun, physical activities after school hours. She decided she could do something about this by offering free dance classes that would be open to anyone. Currently her class has grown to approximately 20 dancers ranging in age from three to seventeen. In addition to practices these dancers have performed at many events, festivals and venues in Hastings and throughout the state. Due to Maria's goals, they have grown in cultural knowledge, communication skills, confidence, pride and dance skills. There is a connection to the larger community that has evolved from these performances. Maria makes a point of teaching dances from different regions of Mexico and Central America. The costumes are a part of the culture and story of the dances.

Since Maria does not charge students for the dance classes, she depends on donations to buy costumes, or to buy the material to make the elaborate and beautiful costumes for a constantly growing and changing group of dancers.

July Communion Offering Update

The July communion offering raised a total of \$673.
Thank you for your generous support!



Worship in the Park

August 9

August 16

August 23

9:00 a.m.

Alexander Park

Please bring your lawn chair

All are welcome!

AUGUST 30TH

KIDS' CHURCH KICKOFF

9:15- 10:15 AM

FPC FELLOWSHIP HALL

**PREK-12TH GRADE
STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

We will: Review Procedures, Expectations,
and Schedules; Meet Teachers; Have
Acolyte Training; and Go over Bible
Presentation

FPC PRESENTS

ELEMENTARY MOVIE CLUB

5-7PM

Incoming Kindergarteners - 5th
grades are invited to join us for a
monthly movie showing and related
Bible lesson.



**FREE
EVENT**

JUNE 7

JULY 5

AUG 9

PIZZA AND POPCORN WILL BE PROVIDED

THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE YOUTH ROOM

FOR QUESTIONS, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (402) 462-5147

Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher
Tarah Davis & family
Matt Campbell
Janey Nottage-Tacey
Bob Wolf

KyMani Riek
Carole Pedersen

Tony Glenn
Summer Postlewait and family

Lexi Longshore

Kathy Struss

Ken Fisk

Pat Kelley

The Stoddard Family

family of Jim Duval

Sally Smith

Mary Lewis
Zsuzsanna Fazakas

Pam Canady

Jason Hafer

Judd Carrier

Carl Utley

Barry Thomson

Greg Howard

Sammy Nahorny

Francisco Diaz (Beto)

Carter Johnson

Alyssa Donley

Henry Black

Bev Stein

Don & Marie Rasmussen

In memory of

Jim Duval, who passed
away on 7/24/26



Community Book Sale

Gently used books and
jigsaw puzzles for
all ages.



When:

Saturday, August 8th
from 8:00 to 4:00



Where:

Hastings Peace Center,
7th and North Lincoln Avenue.
Park in the attached lot just
south of the building,
then enter the door on the
west side of the building.



*All proceeds will support
educational grants and loans for women.*

Go & Serve LUNCH

Sunday, August 23
Following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
All Are Welcome!



Hands Around the
World Store
has received new
items. Cafe Justo
coffee has arrived.

Stop by the store
and check out
our new
merchandise!

serrv

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BUBBLES & BBQ!

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 2ND



JOIN US FOR DINNER AND
A FOAM PARTY TO KICK OFF
WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

5:00-6:30PM CHURCH
PARKING LOT

WEAR CLOTHES
YOU CAN GET
WET IN.
BRING A TOWEL!

First Presbyterian Church

621 N. Lincoln Ave.

Hastings, NE 68901

402-462-5147

fpc@fpchastings.org

Return Service Requested

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
Sharing the love of Christ from the heart of Hastings since 1873

Head of Church: Jesus Christ

Executive Administrator & Head of Staff:

Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh

Organist and Music Director: Linda Vollweiler

Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Miggi Angango

Chancel Bells & Youth Bells

Director: Dr. Byron Jensen

Youth Choir Director: Linda Johnson

Director of the Langenberg Legacy

Program: Dr. Robin Koozer

Ministers: Members of the Church

Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Director of Christian Education: Rose Koepp

Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

Church Office Administrator: Melissa Davis

Children's Choir Director: Teresa Canady

Children's Bells Choir Director: Dr. Susan Oliver

Accompanist and Music Coordinator: Mary Plock